will be issued after the promoters comply with the terms and conditions stipulated in the 'in-principle' approval.

Comparative rates of inflation

1699. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of inflation during the years 1994-95, 1995-96;

(b) the present rate of inflation during the current year; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government to control the inflationary trends in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDNRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The point-to-point rate of annual inflation as measured by Wholesale Price Index was 10.4 per cent in 1994-95 and 4.4 per cent in 1995-96. In the current year the annual inflation was 7.99 per cent as on 15.2.1997.

(c) The important steps which the Government has taken to control the infaltionary trends are:

(i) Continuation of FCI's open market sale of rice and wheat;

(ii) Import of wheat to augment public stocks of foodgrains;

(iii) Import of edible oils and pulses at reduced duty;

(iv) Strengthening of Public Distribution System;

(v) Maintaining supplies under the liberal import policy for essential commodities such as sugar, edible oils, skimmed milk powder and pulses;

(vi) Reduction of fiscal deficit in the current financial year to 5 per cent of GDP;

(vii) Containing monetary growth to around 16.0 per cent in 1996-97 through prudent monetary policies.

Projects implemented with World Bank assistance

1700. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister for the STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the projects to be implemented with the World Bank assistance in the various States of the country, togetherwith the amount being/to be spent by the Central Governments and the State Governments, seprately in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDNRA KUMAR): There are a number of project proposals for possible World Bank assistance posed to the World Bank and are at various stages of processing. The details including the amount in respect of these projects will be known only after the finalisation of aid negotiations with the World Bank.

News item regarding loss to Indian Overseas Bank

1701. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem published in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated 18th February, 1997, to the effect that the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is to lose Rs. 100 crore;

(b) if so, the full facts in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take recover this huge amount of loan from the companies which have failed to pay the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Overseas Bank has reported that in respect of the six accounts referred to in the news item, they have recovered Rs. 152.90 crores

during 1993 & 1994-95 against the outstanding amount of Rs. 245.37 crores. Attempts to recover the remianing amount constitute an ongoing process.

Approval for Branch Expansion and licencing to Public Sector Banks

1702. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval to the public sector banks for branch expansion and licencing without seeking approval of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) the details of such Public sector banks;

(c) what criteria have been adopted for granting the autonomy to these banks;

(d) whether any of these banks have submitted their expansion palns; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that Indian Commercial Banks which fulfil the following criteria are given freedom to open branches without prior approval from RBI for each branch:

(1) Capital to Risk Assets Ratio (CRAR) at 8% or more.

(2) NPA not more than 15% of total outstanding loans and advances.

(3) Owned Funds above Rs. 100 crores.

(4) Net profit for three consecutive years.

In such cases the banks are advised to submit an Action Plan for one year for, opening all types of branches (General) as well as specialised taking into consideration the broad national policy objectives. Once the plan is approved by RBI, the banks can open branches. However, the bank have to obtain licences under Section 23 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 from RBI's Regional Office before opening the branches. The following Public Sector banks have so far been given freedom to open branches as they have complied with the above criteria:

1. Oriental Bank of Commerce
2. Corporation Bank
3. Canara Bank
4. Union Bank of India.

As per the action plan submitted by these banks and approved by RBI the total number of branches to be opened by them is as under:—

1.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	-	146*
2.	Corporation Bank	-	72
3.	Canara Bank	-	155**
4.	Union Bank of India	-	72

Raids by Income Tax Authorities on cinema stars

1703. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Income Tax authorities have recently raided the premises of a number of top cinema stars in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the outcome of these raids stating the income tax amount due from each of these cine stars; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes sir. In the recent past the Income-tax Authorities at Mumbai have conducted searches in the case of 22 film/ film connected personalities including 6

*Proposal for 5 centres kept in abeyance due to clarification regarding population group-wise classification.

**Additional request for 122 centres received from the bank being examined.